

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A device for applying torque to a wire, comprising:
 - a body portion having a channel with an opening that extends along the length of the body portion and a first engagement surface within the channel;
 - a slider that is slideable within the channel of the body portion so that the channel in the body portion remains open, the slider having a second engagement surface that compresses a wire that is inserted in the channel against the first engagement surface so that rotation of the body portion applies torque to the wire.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the first engagement surface is a tongue that is suspended in the channel of the body portion.
3. The device of Claim 2, wherein the slider has a channel with an open end and a closed end that forms the second engagement surface, the channel in the slider receiving the wire so that movement of the slider in the channel compresses the closed end of the channel toward the first engagement surface of the tongue.
4. The device of Claim 3, wherein the closed end of the slider and the tongue include angled cooperating surfaces.
5. The device of Claim 1, wherein the body portion has a grip enhancing mechanism.
6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the grip enhancing mechanism comprises one or more ridges on the exterior of the body portion.
7. The device of Claim 1, wherein the first engagement surface comprises a wedge in the channel of the body portion and the second engagement surface is a wedge on the slider.
8. The device of Claim 7, wherein one or both engagement surfaces have a grip enhancing mechanism.

9. The device of Claim 1, further comprising a clip into which coils of the wire can be secured.

10. A wire torquing device, comprising:

a body having a channel extending along the length thereof in which a wire can be fitted;

a slider that is movable longitudinally within the body that includes an engagement surface that secures the wire, wherein the wire can be secured in the body without removing the slider from the body.

11. The wire torquing device of Claim 10, wherein the slider includes a channel in which the wire can be fitted and the channel in the body has a tongue that cooperates with the channel on the slider to secure the wire.

12. The wire torquing device of Claim 10, wherein the slider includes an engagement surface that can be selectively engaged with a fixed surface in the channel of the body to secure the wire.

13. The wire torquing device of Claim 10, wherein the slider moves in a slot within the body such that movement of the slider in the slot forces the engagement surface of the slider toward a side wall of the channel in the body.

14. A side loading guidewire torquing device comprising:

a body portion made of a compressible material having a channel extending along a length thereof in which a guidewire can be fitted, the body having a taper such that one portion of the body has a smaller diameter than another portion; and

a ring fitted over the outside of the body and movable along the length thereof such that movement of the ring toward a portion of the body portion having a larger diameter compresses the channel in order to secure the guidewire therein.

15. The side loading guidewire torquing device of Claim 14, wherein the ring has an opening that is movable out of alignment with the slot in the body portion to secure the guidewire in the channel.

16. A guidewire torquing device, comprising:

a body portion having a first section and a second section joined by a flexible hinge integrally formed along a common edge of the first and second sections;

a channel in the first and second sections in which the guidewire is inserted; and means in the channels for engaging the guidewire and imparting one or more curves to the guidewire such that turning the body portion imparts torque to the guidewire.

17. The guidewire torquing device of Claim 16, wherein the means for engaging the guidewire comprises cooperating curved channels on the first and second sections.

18. The guidewire torquing device of Claim 16, further comprising a clip into which coils of the guidewire can be secured.

19. A side loading guidewire torquing device, comprising:
a body portion having a top section and a bottom section joined by a flexible hinge that extends along a length of a common edge of the top and bottom sections; and a channel in the top and bottom sections into which a guidewire is placed and an elastomeric grip enhancing strip in the channel to increase the grip of the guidewire when the top section is closed over the bottom section.